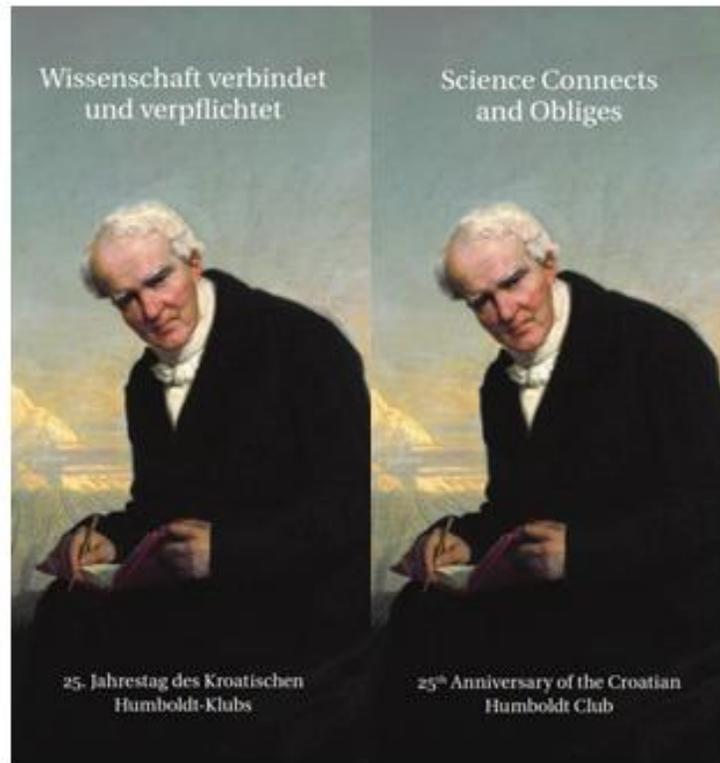


# KHH

# 25



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung/Foundation

Ladies and gentleman! Distinguished Excellencies! Dear humboldtians!

It is my special honor and great pleasure to welcome you on the occasion of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Croatian Humboldt Club which is maintaining under the motto Science Connects and Obliges. The celebration is held under the high patronage of the president of Republic of Croatia Kolinda Grabar Kitarević

I would like to welcome Minister of Science and Education of Republic of Croatia prof. Pavo Barišić who is our member and was until recently president of the Club for the period 2014-16. We thank him for the enthusiasm he has invested in the work of our Club.

With great pleasure and respect I would like to welcome his Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Germany, Dr. Thomas Schultze. Dr. Schultze is constantly providing encouragement for the strengthening of the Croatian-German cultural and scientific relations and we want to thank him for that. We would also like to welcome and thank to the Head of the Embassy Department for Culture, Mr. Arne Hartig, who recognized the role

of the Croatian Humboldt Club in the scientific and cultural cooperation with Federal Republic of Germany.

With great pleasure and respect I would like to welcome Dr. Steffen Mehlich, Head of Sponsorship and Network Department of Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. We would like to thank him for his remarkable significance in support of the Foundation and at the same time on the scientific cooperation with the Republic of Croatia. Dr. Mehlich will give a lecture on the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation that is very important to young scientist to acquire knowledge in the framework of this unique fellowships programs.

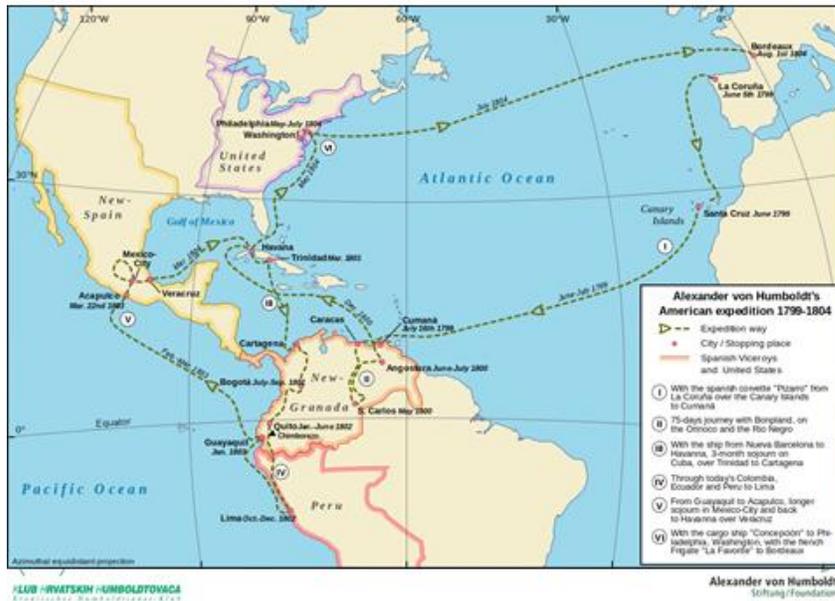
I would like to welcome academician prof. Slobodan Vukičević who is here on behalf of the Croatian Academy of Science and Art.

I would like to welcome prof. Damir Boras, rector of the University of Zagreb, an institution with the greatest number of Croatian humboldtians in the Republic of Croatia .

I would like to welcome prof. Igor Čatić, representative of the founders of the Croatian Humboldt Club.

Especially warm welcome to our guest, the president of the Humboldt Club of Poland prof. Stanislaw Ledakowicz. His presence confirms that our Club is part of a large and significant international Humboldt network of scientists and scholars around the world.

First of all I would like to introduce with few words a father of our big family - Alexander von Humboldt - one of the most prominent scientists in the history of science (born in Berlin, 14th Sept 1769). Humboldt was the last great polymath, a Romantic Scientist in a time headed toward our modern state of scientific specialization. He was the father of ecology and probably the first environmentalist. He discovered ocean currents, the magnetic equator and the origin of magnetic storms, plant geography and climate zones. He studied human migration and South American indigenous cultures while writing extensively about the evils of slavery and the legitimacy of pre-Colombian cultures.



2

Alexander Von Humboldt started as a geologist practitioner, but when an inheritance allowed him the freedom to travel, he began an incredible, five-year scientific journey through South America, Mexico, and Cuba. From 1799 to 1804, von Humboldt and his scientific associate, botanist, Aime Bonpland, traveled through the jungles of Venezuela, made detailed drawings of Inca ruins while exploring the mountains of Peru, and traversed the width of Mexico and Cuba.

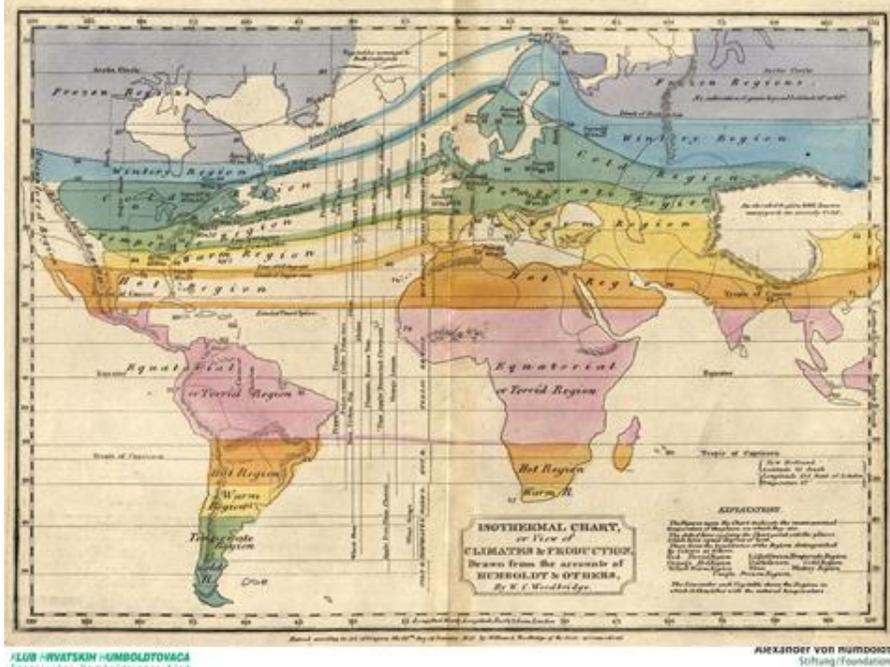


3

He explored the length of the Orinoco River in Venezuela. This 2700 kilometers portion of the trip was filled with danger, disease, and fantastic new discoveries. For example, Von Humboldt was the first explorer to witness the preparation of the curare plant for poison arrows.

Alexander Von Humboldt discovered the ocean current, which limits rainfall on the coast of Peru, later named the Humboldt Current.

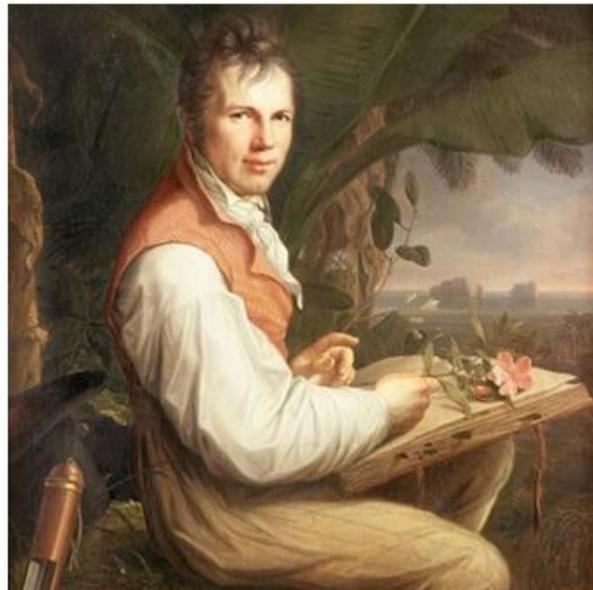




5

By connecting places of identical temperatures, he created contour maps with lines of similar temperatures, which he called "isotherms". Thanks to the fact that Alexander Von Humboldt invented these maps, scientists began to see patterns in the life and the types of life present in certain places, and he became a pioneer in the visual presentation of scientific data. These discoveries and measurements were critical to what made him such an important scientist.

Alexander von Humboldt an 1806 portrait by Friedrich Georg Weitsch



6

Until Humboldt, scientists who described new plants and animals did not clearly see the crucial connection between living things and the places in which they lived, called habitats, science did not appreciate the role of the environment on the diversity of life. Humboldt discovered and understood the importance of these connections. That's why we consider Humboldt to be the founder of biogeography.

He also developed a theory called the "Unity of Nature," which shows the interconnectedness of all nature. This knowledge plays a vital role in the preservation and protection of our habitat.

His book, *Cosmos*, describes this theory and is still in print today.

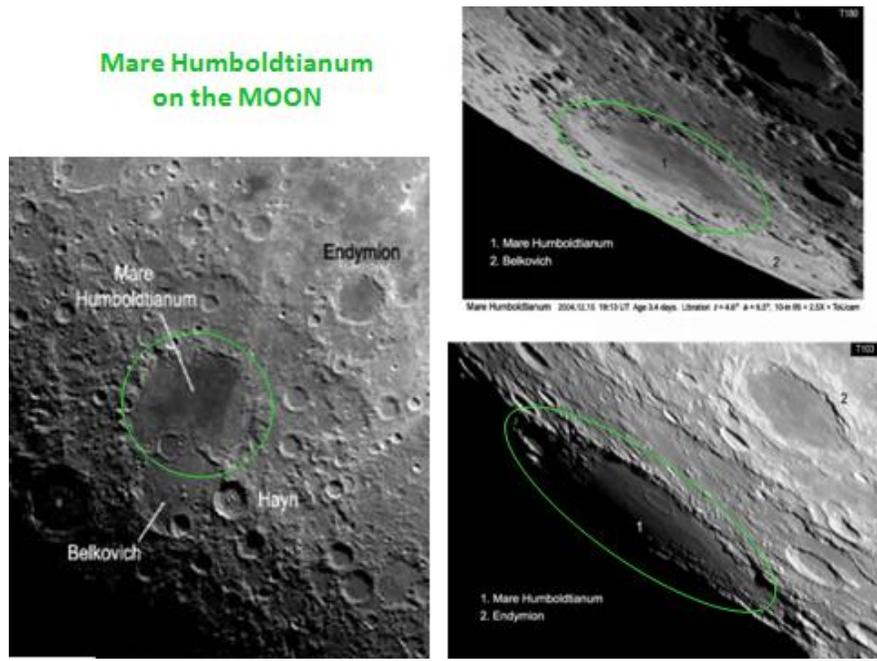
It is important to emphasize that, Von Humboldt was also generous in serving one additional role in the world. He was the mentor and teacher to younger scientists. In fact, just recently it was discovered the crucial role that Humboldt played in the scientific work of his most famous pen-pal, Charles Darwin. A young Darwin read Humboldt's texts extensively and wrote in his diary while traveling on the *Beagle*, "I am at present fit only to read Humboldt. He, like another sun, illuminates everything I behold."

### Humboldt names

- Humboldt's hog-nosed skunk, the Humboldt penguin, the Humboldt squid, and more than a hundred other animal species...
- Humboldt's Lily, Humboldt's Schomburgkia, and three hundred other plant species...
- the minerals Humboldtite, Humboldtite, and Humboldtite, Humboldt Limestone, Humboldt Oolite, the Humboldt Formation,
- the Humboldt Current, Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Parque Nacional Alejandro de Humboldt;
- Mont Humboldt, Humboldt Mountain, Humboldt Peak, and Humboldt ranges in China, South Africa, and Antarctica; Humboldt Falls, Humboldt Glacier, Humboldt Bay, the Humboldt River, the Humboldt Sink, the Humboldt Salt Marsh;
- four Humboldt counties, Dewey-Humboldt in Arizona, Humboldt Illinois, Humboldt Kansas, Humboldt Iowa, Humboldt Ohio, Humboldt Wisconsin, Humboldt Saskatchewan, Humboldt Nebraska and thirteen Humboldt towns in North America alone,
- the Humboldt crater and Mare Humboldtianum on the moon, and asteroid 54 Alexandra, orbiting the sun.

It's hard to escape Humboldt. Humboldt is everywhere.

Alexander Von Humboldt's influence is apparent everywhere and in every scientific discipline. He became so famous, that more places on Earth have been named after him than any human being. The Humboldt name graces multiple mountains and mountain ranges, forests, national parks, waterfalls, glaciers, an ocean current, animals and plants including, penguins, squid, bat, monkey(s), skunk, snail, an entire genus of flowering plants, legumes, endangered cactus, a beetle, river dolphins, a carnivorous plant, oak, orchid, lily and mushroom all bear his name



8

Humboldt is in outer space, the Mare Humboldt on the moon and two asteroids bear the name. There are also a large number of organizations, institutions, monuments and other random things that are all called Humboldt.

After Humboldt's death, his friends and colleagues founded the Foundation to continue his generous support to young scientists. Since initial donations lost value during German hyperinflation in the twenties and in the Second World War, the Federal Republic of Germany rebuilt the Foundation's work in 1953. The founding document was signed by Konrad Adenauer, and the first president of the Foundation became the winner of the Nobel Prize for Physics Werner von Heisenberg.

The Alexander Humboldt Foundation encourages scientific collaboration between top foreign and German researchers. It annually grants more than 700 scholarships and prizes. The science network is expanded to 140 countries and includes more than 27,000 scientists. It has a great influence on scientific production all over the world. As an intermediary organization of German foreign cultural and educational policy, the Foundation supports international cultural dialogue and scientific exchange.

We, the members of The Croatian Humboldt Club, love to believe that our Club is one of the harmonious parts of this magnificent mosaic.



9

The Croatian Humboldt Club (Kroatischer Humboldtianer-Klub) was founded on May 11, 1992 as the 56th in the international network of Humboldt Clubs.

The Founding Assembly was held at the hotel Intercontinental, and prof. Viktor Žmegač was elected as the first president. The Founding Assembly was led by prof. Ivo Baučić (president), prof. Igor Čatić, prof. Ante Čović, prof. Vlatko Previšić and prof. Zvonimir Maksić

The Croatian Humboldt Club (Kroatischer Humboldtianer-Klub) was founded on May 11, 1992.

Prof. Viktor Žmegač was elected as the first president.

The Founding Assembly was led by prof. Ivo Baučić (president), prof. Igor Čatić, prof. Ante Čović, prof. Vlatko Previšić and prof. Zvonimir Maksić.

1994-1996, president of the Club was prof. Elsa Reiner.

1996-1998, president of the Club was prof. Ante Pažanin.

1998-2001, president of the Club was prof. Leo Budin.

2001-2005, president of the Club was prof. Mladen Pavičić.

2005-2009, president of the Club was prof. Ivan Gušić.

2009-2014, president of the club was prof. Vlatko Previšić.

2014-2016, president of the Club was prof. Pavo Barišić.

2016. - , president of Club is dr. Mile Ivanda.



10

In the period from 1953 to 2014, the Foundation has approved scholarships for 201 researchers and two research awards for scientists from Croatia. Two German scientists used research scholarships from the Feodor Lynen program.

1994-1996, president of the Club was prof. Elsa Reiner.

1996-1998, president of the Club was prof. Ante Pažanin.

1998-2001, president of the Club was prof. Leo Budin.

2001-2005, president of the Club was prof. Mladen Pavičić.

2005-2009, president of the Club was prof. Ivan Gušić.

2009-2014, president of the club was prof. Vlatko Previšić.

2014-2016, president of the Club was prof. Pavo Barišić.

2016.-, president of Club is dr. Mile Ivanda.

There are currently 144 members in the Club and, together with 46 deceased members, 11 member abroad, Croatia has a in total 201 humboldtians.

The club has its headquarters and work space at a very attractive address in the center of Zagreb - Marulićev trg 19.

Over the past period, the club was very active and organized a large number of lectures, forums and round tables. Here are some examples:

FROM THE BIG BANG TO THE EXPANDING UNIVERSE  
lecture by dr. Neven Bilić, Ruđer Bošković Institute, 15th April 2015



11

KLUB PRIVATNIH HUMBOLDTOVAČA  
Klub privratnih Humboldtovaca

Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung/Foundation

At University Teachers Club, on April 15, 2015, a lecture under the title "FROM THE BIG BANG TO THE EXPANDING UNIVERSE" was held by dr. Nevenko Bilić from the Ruđer Bošković Institute.

SCIENTIFIC CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE – OUTLOOKS AND PROBLEMS, 28th Sept. 2015  
round table with distinguished guests: rector of the University of Zagreb, president of the National Council for Science, Higher Education and Technological Development, etc



12

KLUB PRIVATNIH HUMBOLDTOVAČA  
Klub privratnih Humboldtovaca

Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung/Foundation

On Sept 28, 2015, in the Grand Hall of the Rectorate of the University of Zagreb, the Club organised a roundtable SCIENTIFIC CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE - OUTLOOKS AND PROBLEMS with many distinguished guests including rector of Zagreb's University, president of the National Council for Science, Higher Education and Technological Development, etc. .

On September 28, 2015, in the hall of the Faculty of Philosophy, the Club organized presentation of the programs for the proposers for the rector position of the University of Zagreb: prof. Blaženka Divjak, prof. Melita Kovačević, prof. Nedeljko Perić and prof. Damir Boras presented the most important determinants of their programs.

During the last 25 years, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has always provided support to every individual scholar and to the club. In the toughest moments, during war for the independence, when our country did not have enough resources to fund science, thankfully to the Humboldt's support, many excellent scientists, remained in the science system, built up their careers and helped later many other younger scientists for realisation of their PhD dissertations as well as their research programs for the benefit of our entire Croatian community.

With the award of various scholarships, Alexander von Humblodt Foundation also donated a valuable scientific instrumentation. I will give only a few illustrative examples:

- Computerized multicomponent vessel for testing lipid monosaccharides at the air-water phase boundary and Brewster angle microscope, Zlatica Kozarac, RBI

Computerized multicomponent vessel for testing lipid monosaccharides at the air-water phase boundary and Brewster angle microscope, Zlatica Kozarac, RBI



- One analytical (1991) and one preparative (2003) gas chromatograph that are still working; Mirjana Eckert-Maksić, RBI
- Parents-child interaction recording equipment; Marta Ljubešić, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation, University of Zagreb

- One analytical (1991) and one preparative (2003) gas chromatograph that are still working; Mirjana Eckert-Maksić, RBI
- Parents-child interaction recording equipment; Marta Ljubešić, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation, University of Zagreb
- Computers and 3 workstations with graphic processors and the associated equipment (HP nc6000, i7 procesori, 2x3TB SATA3 diska, RAM: 2x8GB DDR3, 3xGTX780 i 'grafo4xl' i7 procesori, 1x 6TB SATA3 diska, RAM: 4x8GB DDR4n(1x6x2=12, 4xGTX980); David Smith, Sanja Tomić, Larisa Jonke, Bleženka Melić, RBI
- A number of books; Zlatica Kozarac, Marina Kveder



14

- Computers and 3 workstations with graphic processors and the associated equipment (HP nc6000, i7procesori, 2x3TBSATA3diska, RAM: 2x8GBDDR3, 3xGTX780i 'grafo4xl' i7procesori, 1x6TBSATA3diska, RAM: 4x8GBDDR4n(1x6x2=12, 4xGTX980); David Smith, Sanja Tomić, Larisa Jonke, Bleženka Melić, RBI
- A number of books; Zlatica Kozarac, Marina Ilakovac Kveder, RBI
- Helium transfer line, CW- ENDORsonde and microwave bridge for Varian E-109 EPR spectrometer, Marina Ilakovac Kveder, RBI

Marina Ilakovic Kveder, RBI



Helium transfer line



CW- ENDOR

Microwave bridge for Varian E-109  
EPR spectrometer



Partly donated by  
Alexander von Humboldt Foundation



15

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT FOUNDATION  
FOR THE SUPPORTS DURING ALL THESE YEARS.**

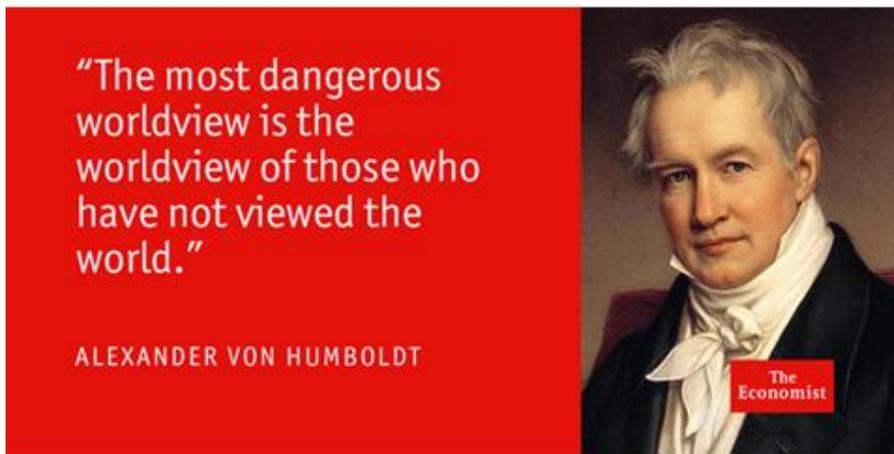
**At the end I would like to say few words on FUTURE OUTLOOKS of the Club:**

The Croatian Humboldt Club will continue with the activities based on the long-term planning of the existing Strategic Work Plan.

1. Organisation of seminars, round table, forums related to the scientific achievements and scientific politics and other regular activities of the Club.
2. Organisation of bilateral or multilateral meetings with the neighboring countries Humboldt clubs. At the moment we have such offer from Austrian Humboldt Club and here is also our guest from Poland with whom we would like to cooperate.

3. The effort toward enhancement of the scientific cooperation with Federal Republic of Germany. Especially, in recent time, there are demands how to transfer specific academic knowledge in technology development. We hope to mediate in establishment of some specific programs that could be on benefit of the both countries – Germany and Croatia.
4. Support to young scientists in their applications for Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship programs, i.e. recruit the next generation of humboldtians. If someone of younger colleges wants to become a member of the Humboldt community, the most important thing is a personal achievement. Whether you are a young postdoctoral student at the beginning of a scientific career, an experienced scientist or a world leader in your field - the fellowships and awards of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation provide the support that could excellently suit you and your professional work. A number of applications from Croatia is at low rate nowadays and should be stimulated to increase.

I will finish with this thought of Alexander von Humboldt:



16

Thank you for your attention. With the hope of the productive and successful future activities of our club, I wish you a pleasant meeting today.